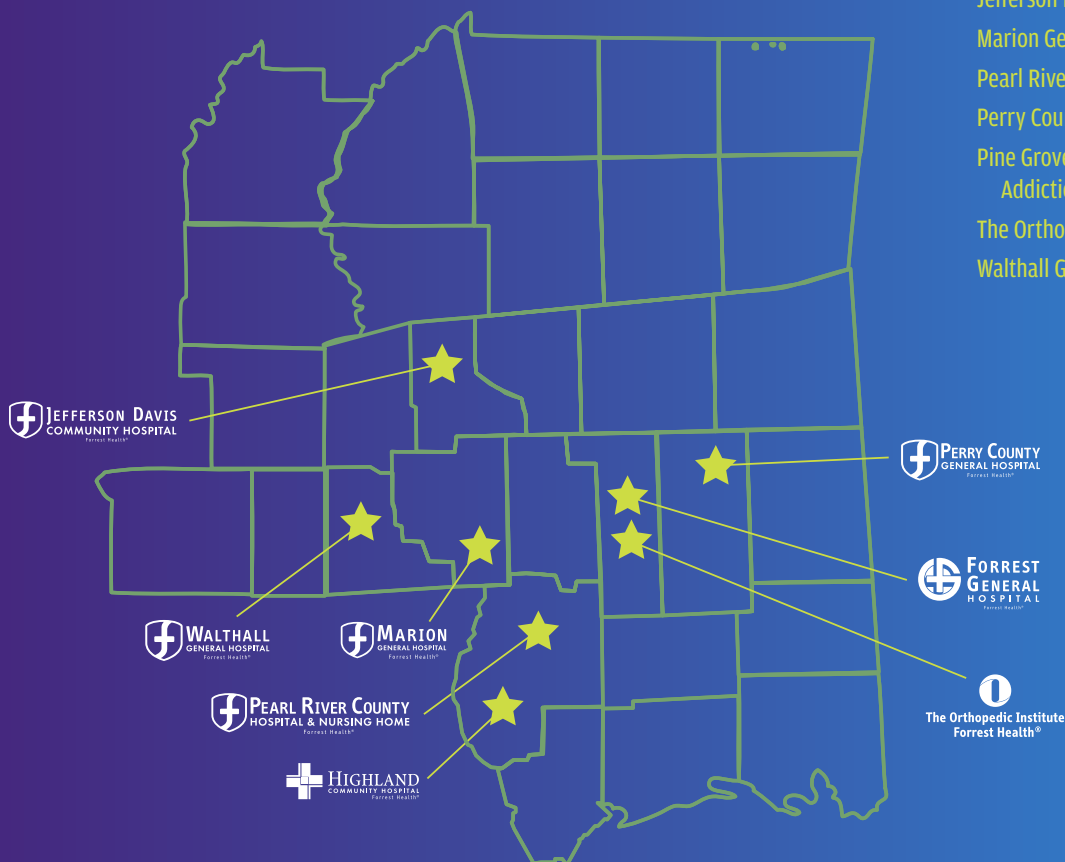


FACES OF
FORREST
2023
ANNUAL
REPORT

FORREST HEALTH IMPACT

FACILITIES

Asbury Hospice House
Forrest General Hospital
Highland Community Hospital
Jefferson Davis Community Hospital
Jefferson Davis Extended Care Facility
Marion General Hospital
Pearl River County Hospital & Nursing Home
Perry County General Hospital
Pine Grove Behavioral Health & Addiction Services
The Orthopedic Institute
Walthall General Hospital



OUR MISSION

Do what is best for the patient.

WE CARE VALUES

Together We: Communicate with Courtesy and Compassion, Acknowledge and take Action, Respect and Reassure, Empathize and Explain.

For a complete list of Forrest Health facilities and clinics, visit forresthealth.org

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

This past year, 2023, continued to be a year of rebound for hospitals across our state. The challenges facing healthcare in the aftermath of COVID-19 were daunting, but at the end of the year, we were blessed with the Governor's announcement of additional funding for the hospitals of Mississippi. This was welcomed news for the future as the demand for services and the volume continues to grow.

As we navigated the financial risks in 2023, we did not take our eye off the quality of care. We listened to our patients and implemented changes in our Emergency Room to improve the throughput. You will see some of these additions noted in this report. We expanded capacity to assist with shorter stays in the ER. We often refer to the ER as the "front door" into our facility and the first interaction with our services. As a Level II Trauma facility, the wait time does not always meet the expectations of our customers. There are many steps in a patient visit to the ER. From seeing a provider, to labs, to X-rays and to results, the necessary process can seem long for those who visit. Please know we understand and continue to look for ways to deliver quality care and meet expectations as much as possible. We have made many efforts and will continue to work towards providing the most expedited care possible as we see to the needs of our Trauma and Emergency Room patients.

We opened two locations of our Forrest Health Institute of Neuroscience. Our first office opened in West Hattiesburg with our main location following shortly afterwards in Midtown Hattiesburg. Providers are in place to handle your elective neurosurgery needs while also covering neurosurgery trauma needs in-house at Forrest General 24/7.

Our Forrest General Cancer Center was again accredited by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer Accreditation Program. This three-year accreditation is one example of the hard work and dedication of our Cancer Center staff and physicians. We are proud of the growth of our cancer clinical trials program which is now the largest in the state. These clinical trials give patients access to new tests, treatments, and drugs that assist in their cancer treatment. In 2023, Forrest General was also accredited as a Bariatric Comprehensive Center. This program is a center of excellence for laparoscopic and robotic gastric sleeve and gastric bypass surgeries.

As you read about all the milestones and programs in this report, please know that none of this would be possible without the dedication of our employees and our medical staff. Our team keeps the trains running each day. They deliver the services needed to keep Forrest Health at the forefront of healthcare in our state.



.....

This year, 2024, will be a time to reset and continue our focus on meeting the needs of the patients we serve. How do we provide the best customer healthcare experience? How do we grow capacity as the demand and need for our services increases? How do we continue to use technology to provide the best care? These are questions we reflect on daily to be your healthcare facility of choice. As we continue our efforts to do what is best for you, please know that we not only want to be your first choice for healthcare, we want to be your health partner!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Andy Woodard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "R" and "W".

R. Andy Woodard,
Forrest Health
President & CEO

2023 FORREST COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Forrest General Hospital (FGH) is a Level II Trauma Center and a 547-bed short-term, general acute care, public hospital which is not-for-profit and tax-exempt. Located in Hattiesburg, the hospital is owned by Forrest County and was established in July 1952. The hospital is governed by a Board of Trustees.

All citizens of Forrest County are eligible to serve on the Hospital Board of Trustees which are appointed by the Forrest County Board of Supervisors.

David Hogan	Sharon Thompson	Burkett Ross	Roderick Woullard	Chris Bowen
President	Ward 2	Ward 3	Vice President	District 5

2023

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



The Forreest Health Board of Trustees is made up of five members, currently overseen by Jana J. Causey, Ph.D., chairperson. The board is appointed by the Forreest County Board of Supervisors and is charged with the oversight of Forreest Health, a completely self-sufficient system. Overseeing all aspects of the health system, its flagship facility, Forreest General, and its six regional facilities, the Board of Trustees makes decisions important to ensuring that patients are a top priority and receive the best possible care.

Front Row: **Peggy J. Answorth, Secretary** | **Jana J. Causey, Ph.D., Chairman**

Back Row: **Marcus L. Hogan, MD** | **Eric K. Steele, Vice-Chairman** | **Richard W. Preusch**

2023

MEDICAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Seated: **Muhammad H. Sattar, MD, Internal Medicine** | **Frank Hux, DO, Neurosurgery**

Standing from Left: **Nicole Carden, MD, Pediatrics** | **Lisa Leek, MD, Emergency Medicine**

Scott Keeler, MD, President | **James A. York, MD, Radiology** | **Leigh Anne Strong, MD, Pathology**

Not Pictured: **Luis Irizarry, MD, Anesthesia** | **Brittney Brown, DO, OB/GYN**

Charles “Chaz” Richardson, II, DO, Psychiatry

MILESTONES & RECOGNITIONS





3,000
PROCEDURES

The **FORREST GENERAL CANCER CENTER'S** prostate brachytherapy program completed its 3,000th brachytherapy procedure for prostate cancer. According to Joseph Salloum, MD, radiation oncologist, Forrest General's Cancer Center is the largest center in the state and one of the largest centers in the country to perform this procedure.

The Vascular Surgeon team performed more than 100 **TRANSCAROTID ARTERY REVASCULARIZATION (TCAR)** procedures. The TCAR procedure provides one of the safest treatments for patients with carotid artery disease. Forrest General is one of only a few hospitals in the nation who have accomplished this endeavor.

The **FORREST HEALTH INSTITUTE OF NEUROSCIENCE** opened locations in Midtown and West Hattiesburg. The FHIN serves patients with complex spinal disorders, nervous system disorders which include the brain, spinal cord, and peripheral nervous systems, and a spine clinic. All aspects can be performed locally - from doctor's visit to surgery and recovery.

Forrest General Hospital welcomed the arrival of the Auris Health's **MONARCH™ PLATFORM**. The system is used to diagnose lung cancer patients at an earlier stage. Physicians also completed 100 Monarch Robot procedures.



Doctors with Forrest Health's Family Medicine Residency Clinic helped play a pivotal role in getting important legislation passed. During the 2023 session of the **MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE, HOUSE BILL 4**, an act to amend Section 41-29-117, Mississippi Code of 1972, to include tianeptine as a Schedule III drug; and for related purposes, was passed.

THE COMMISSION ON CANCER (COC), a quality program of the American College of Surgeons (ACS), has granted Three-Year Accreditation to the cancer program at the Forrest General Cancer Center.

Forrest General Hospital was one of eight health systems awarded **ADVANCE LIFE SUPPORT FOR OB EMERGENCIES (ALSO)** training. The training promotes safety and quality maternal outcomes for patients in Forrest General's Family Birthplace.

One year after **FORREST GENERAL HOSPITAL AND PEARL RIVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE** collaborated on a new ultrasound tech program on the Forrest County campus of PRCC, FGH hired its first graduate from the program.



Forrest General Hospital and the Hattiesburg Public School District partnered to host a **CAREER FAIR FOR HPSD MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS**. This year's event, "Growing Up Green," invited students to tour 22 stations which highlighted 32 jobs in the healthcare field – both clinical and non-clinical. More than 800 students participated.

The Forrest General Hospital **AMBASSADOR PROGRAM CELEBRATED FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE** to the patients, guests, and their families who visit the hospital. Ambassadors welcome guests entering Forrest General Hospital's front lobby, deliver mail and floral bouquets to patient rooms, escort visitors and families to their requested destinations, and much more.

Forrest General Hospital's Trauma Services partnered with **HATTIESBURG HIGH SCHOOL** for a **PROM PROMISE** re-enactment. The "mock" car accident was set to appear as if it occurred following the school's annual prom. Prom Promise is designed to raise students' awareness about the harmful effects of drinking and driving, and texting and driving.



Forrest General Hospital's Department of Public Safety is currently the only Hospital Police Department in the state to receive re-accreditation by the **MISSISSIPPI LAW ENFORCEMENT ACCREDITATION COMMISSION**.



Forrest General Hospital's **SEVENTH GROUP OF RESIDENT PHYSICIANS** completed their three-year residency with Forrest General Hospital's Family Medicine Residency and have accepted full-time medical positions.

Employees at the Forrest General Cancer Center raised more than **\$23,250** during the second **FUEL TO FIGHT CANCER 5K**. More than 240 runners/walkers participated to bring awareness to the plight of patients who may need assistance in getting to their appointment.

The American Cancer Society awarded a **\$20,000 TRANSPORTATION GRANT TO THE FORREST GENERAL CANCER CENTER**. The funding allows health systems to provide eligible patients an estimated 577,350 rides to treatment.

1,700 BIRTH TISSUE DONATIONS

Forrest General Hospital celebrated more than **1,700** **TELAGEN BIRTH-TISSUE DONATIONS** since it joined the program in 2019. Forrest General Hospital's Labor and Delivery Department partners with telaGen and gives expectant C-section mothers the opportunity to donate their birth tissue which can be used in a number of healing procedures.

Forrest General Hospital has received accreditation under the **AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS COMMISSION ON CANCER ACCREDITATION PROGRAM**. As a CoC-accredited institution, the Forrest General Hospital Cancer Center also becomes an ACS Surgical Quality Partner.

THAD F. WAITES, MD, MACC, was awarded the **2023 DISTINGUISHED FELLOW AWARD** by the American College of Cardiology in honor of contributions to the cardiovascular profession.



Forrest General Hospital received a **GOLD ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE AWARD FROM STRYKER**. This award is given for outstanding performance in environmental sustainability and the improvement of overall hospital quality through medical device remanufacturing and reprocessing. Forrest General is the only hospital in Mississippi to receive this award.

The Mississippi Board of Nursing elected **SANDRA CULPEPPER** as **PRESIDENT OF ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**. Culpepper is a Licensed Practical Nurse and a Nurse Recruiter.



Forrest General Hospital cardiologists performed the **500TH WATCHMANTM PROCEDURE** for patients with non-valvular atrial fibrillation. This procedure offers an alternative to long-term blood thinners.

U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT recognized **FORREST GENERAL HOSPITAL'S SKILLED NURSING UNIT** for being among the elite SNU facilities which earned a "High Performing" rating, the highest possible achievement. FGH SNU expanded to a 30-bed facility to better serve its 19-county service area.

BEST OF THE PINE BELT AWARDS



BEST HOSPITAL
Forrest General Hospital



BEST HOME HEALTH
Forrest General Home Health



BEST HOSPICE
Forrest General Hospice/
Asbury House

Twenty-one senior level nursing students who participated in the 2023 Forrest General Hospital **NURSE EXTERN PROGRAM** completed their training at the end of the summer.

Forrest General Hospital received designation as a **BARIATRIC COMPREHENSIVE CENTER BY METABOLIC AND BARIATRIC SURGERY ACCREDITATION AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**. The center is currently performing laparoscopic and robotic gastric sleeve and gastric bypass surgeries.

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR & WE CARE AWARDS



Neal Holm, MD
GENERAL SURGERY
We CARE Physician Award



Shannon Vega, RN, BSN
DIRECTOR OF RADIOLOGY
FORREST GENERAL CANCER CENTER
We CARE Leadership Award



Amy Alfonso, RN
SURGICAL SERVICES
Employee of Year



Dustin Gatlin, P.E.
DIRECTOR OF PROJECTS,
REAL ESTATE, AND CONSTRUCTION



LaSandra Hudson
DIRECTOR OF PAYROLL



Mark Passmore
IT CLIENT SERVICES



Shirley Harris
PUBLIC SAFETY

AWARD WINNERS

DR. PHILIP W. ROGERS



Rosa Byrd, MSN, RN
DIRECTOR OF CARDIAC CATH LAB
Mentor Award



Jonathan "Jon" Copp, MD
ORTHOPAEDIC TRAUMA SURGERY
Innovator Award



Joseph "Joe" Radley, MD
ORTHOPAEDIC TRAUMA SURGERY
Innovator Award



Cherie Papizan, MD
DIRECTOR
FORREST GENERAL'S HOSPITAL CARE SERVICE
Leadership Award



Sophy Mangana, MD
RADIATION ONCOLOGIST
FORREST GENERAL CANCER CENTER
Humanitarian Award



Emergency Room Nurses
EMERGENCY ROOM
Advocate Award

AWARD WINNERS

DOCTORS CARE

Physician Communication Champion



**Gregg
Anazia, MD**
QUARTER 1



**William
Bell, Jr., MD**
QUARTER 2



**Sophy
Mangana, MD**
QUARTER 3

Physician Efficiency Champion



**Sourabh
Mukherjee, MD, FACS, RPVI**
QUARTER 1



**James
Kot, MD, FACS**
QUARTER 2



**Thompson
Liddell, MD**
QUARTER 3

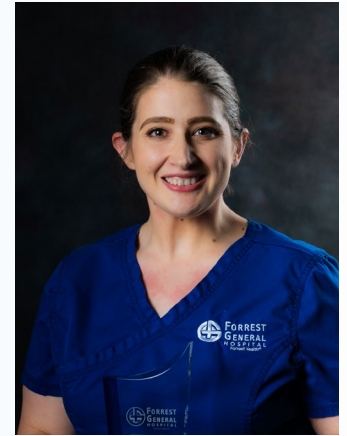
NURSES OF THE YEAR



Stacey James, RN
SURGICAL SERVICES
Clinical Nurse of the Year



Troy Cook, RN
CATH LAB
Nurse Leader of the Year



Morgan Hughes, RN
EDUCATION
Nurse Mentor of the Year



Jordan Hymel, RN
INTENSIVE CARE UNIT
Nurse Rookie of the Year



Hannah Sones, CNA
HOSPICE
Tech of the Year



Brittney Stringfellow, RN
EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT
Nurse Preceptor of the Year



Melissa Lindsey, LPN
PATIENT CARE UNIT 4T
Annual DAISY winner



Intensive Care Unit | Nurse/Team Innovator of the Year



Emergency Department | Nurse/Team of the Year

Amy Alfonso

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Patient Care Manager, Surgery

Why did you choose a career in healthcare?

I chose healthcare to take care of patients. When my grandfather was in home hospice, the nurses took care of his medical needs and the family's emotional needs simultaneously. There is no more incredible honor than being there for our patients and their loved ones during some of their most challenging days.

Have you worked any other jobs other than healthcare? If so, what were they?

Yes, I worked as a server and a bartender for a few years at Mahogany and Branch, two fantastic local spots. During this time, I learned a lot about people and many skills that carry over to my nursing career.

How long have you been at Forrest General?

What jobs have you held?

I have worked at Forrest General for 9 years. I was an RN on 9T when it was the Telemetry and Stroke unit. Then, I worked as a staff nurse in Surgery before accepting the leadership position.

What prompted you to seek a job at Forrest General?

During nursing school, the majority of my clinicals were at Forrest General. Forrest General is the hospital to work for in South Mississippi.

What exactly does your job entail?

I am responsible for the 24/7 operations of the Surgery Department, including, but not limited to, patient care, patient flow, supply inventory, and budget, capital budget, staffing, and recruitment.

What do you think is special about working at Forrest General Hospital?

Both my brother and I were born at Forrest General. It is impressive to see our local hospital become a pillar of healthcare in the state and region. I love being part of bringing on new services and procedures to serve our community better.

You're known for your "Jeez Louise" catch phrase. Where did that come from?

Honestly, I am not sure where I picked it up. I have been saying it for so long.



What has been your most memorable experience working at Forrest General?

While COVID-19 was not a fond memory, it was a time for growth. As a young leader, I faced many challenges, such as supply constraints and staffing shortages coupled with necessary surgeries and critical patients. COVID-19 challenged me in unforeseen ways; however, my team emerged stronger due to it.

What's so special about the Hershey Kisses you keep on your desk?

When taking the management position, one of the first tidbits of advice I received was always have candy in my office. Hershey's Kisses are universally liked and one of my favorites.

It's been said that your office is like Grand Central Station, but you keep all of the balls up in the air? How do you manage that?

My office has two entrances and is right next to the Surgery Desk, which is essentially air traffic control for everything surgery-related. Every day is different, and I must adapt to each day's priorities and break the work into manageable pieces. While I have many responsibilities and tasks, the most important aspect is our patients. No matter what I am working on, patient care trumps everything.

How do you and your team deal with stress?

We deal with all the stress by cracking jokes and laughing at the appropriate times. We love to have a good time and enjoy working in our department.

Stacey James, RN

SURGICAL SERVICES

Clinical Nurse of the Year

How long have you worked at Forrest General?

I started working at Forrest General in the nurse extern program while I was a senior nursing student at the University of Southern Mississippi

What positions have you held during your time here?

I have worked in the Oncology unit as a bedside nurse and Patient Care coordinator; in the Premium Pool as a bedside nurse; as an Instructional Facilitator/Nurse Analyst during the original EPIC implementation at the hospital; a Patient Care coordinator at Asbury Hospice House; and a circulating nurse in surgery.

Where do you currently work?

Currently, I'm back in the Premium Pool as a bedside nurse.

What's your background in the medical field?

I have spent my entire nursing career at Forrest General. Being a part of the team that cares for others is what is so great about working here.

What prompted you to seek a job in the healthcare field?

I enjoy helping others and even as a child I always wanted to become a nurse.

What do you think is special about working at Forrest General Hospital?

I have experienced many different roles as a nurse, both at work and as a caretaker for family members. At Forrest General, there are opportunities available to meet your needs when your life or situations change while still being able to fulfill your desire to help others.

What are some of the biggest changes you've seen in the healthcare field?

Obviously, technology has changed healthcare... from electronically linking patients to their providers wherever they may be to the robotic dispensing of medications.

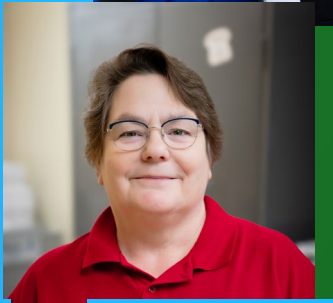
How has the nursing shortage that has been seen and felt nationwide affected Forrest General?

Nursing shortages have been an issue since I first began my career. Like healthcare worldwide, Forrest General has had its own challenges with shortages since COVID. Our Administration has been diligent in finding ways to recruit and retain nursing staff to meet the needs of the community.

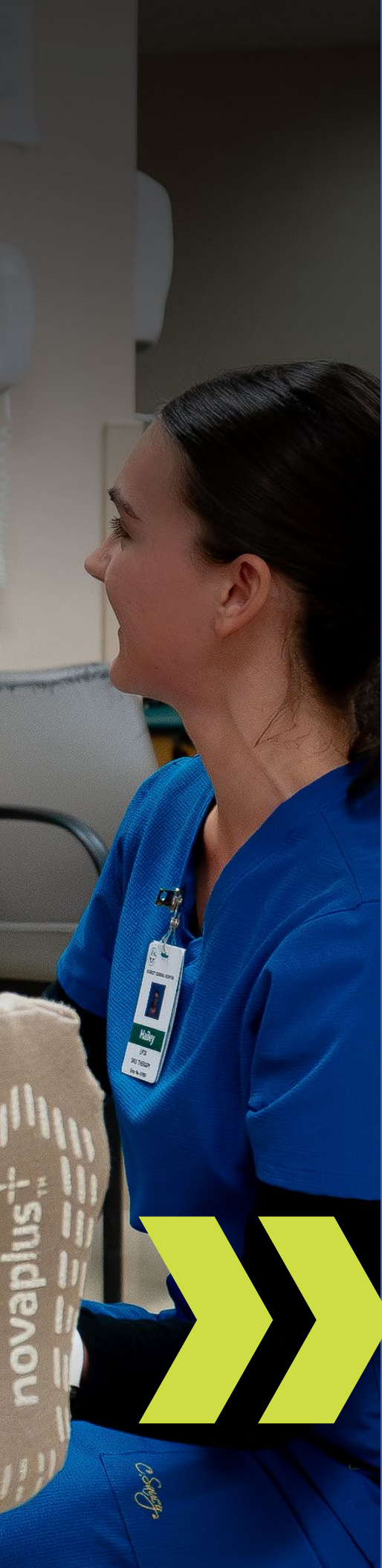


FACES OF FORREST









SERVICE LINES

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BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

ONE PLACE. MANY SOLUTIONS.

Pine Grove Behavioral Health & Addiction Services understands lasting recovery and healing begins at the roots of who we are. Transformation is deeply woven into the core of each individual through broad-reaching treatment options. As a result, Pine Grove has gained a reputation as one of the nation's most comprehensive treatment campuses.

Inpatient Services include an Adult Psychiatric Unit, along with a Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Unit, and Detox Services are provided as well. Additionally, Pine Grove offers Outpatient Services for children, adolescents, and adults. Established in 1984, Pine Grove has provided nationally and internationally recognized health care for 40 years.

Pine Grove's world-renowned programs also treat gender-specific substance abuse including specialized tracks for co-occurring eating disorders and trauma.

Pine Grove also offers an Intensive Outpatient substance abuse healing program for adults and a treatment track for those age 55 plus. In addition, Pine Grove's programs include a dedicated professional's treatment curriculum and a comprehensive evaluation center.



In fiscal year 2023, Pine Grove delivered inpatient psychiatric care to 2,458 patients, which includes the treatment of children, adolescents, and adults. Pine Grove's outpatient services department provided 11,275 patient visits; including the organization's outpatient clinic for children, adolescents and adults, intensive outpatient substance use disorder treatment program, Forrest Health's Employee Assistance Program, and Pine Grove's partial hospitalization mental health treatment program. Pine Grove also treated nearly 350 patients, in fiscal year 2023, for specialty addiction care, including substance use disorders, trauma, co-occurring eating disorders, and sexual addiction.



EMERGENCY SERVICES

During 2023, the ED opened a nine-bed observation unit called Clinical Decision Unit (CDU), for those patients that don't meet inpatient, but need a little further work up, testing, and possible treatment. They stay anywhere between 8 and 24 hours and are discharged.

The Emergency Department is fully staffed with 73 actual patient care rooms.

The ED opened a Fast Lane for lesser acuity patients which is run out of triage with four treatment bays.

This is an area where patients are kept vertical and do not require an actual treatment room or bed. The goal is to have them seen, treated, and dispositioned within 60 minutes.



73,703

Total 2023 Census

202

Total Average Patient Volume per Day

5 Minutes

Median Triage Time

347

Total Number of Patients Arrived by Air in 2023

20,958

(Daily Average of 57)

Total Number of Patients
Arrived by Ambulance in 2023

52,398

(Daily Average of 144)

Total Number of Patients through Triage in 2023

TRAUMA SERVICES

You cannot always be prepared when the need for trauma care arises, but Forrest General Hospital's Level II Trauma Center is always ready. We are ready to provide an immediate, organized medical response by a highly-specialized team, 24/7, 365 days a year. Forrest General Hospital's Level II Trauma Center serves patients from across the State of Mississippi, including Forrest Health's 19-county service area.

Forrest General Hospital's Level 2 Trauma Center provides the following services:

- General Surgery
- Neurosurgery
- Orthopaedic Surgery
- Emergency Medicine
- Plastic Surgery
- Interventional Radiology
- Anesthesia
- Obstetrics and Gynecologic Surgery
- Critical Care Medicine
- Cardiac Surgery
- Thoracic Surgery
- Vascular Surgery
- Ear Nose and Throat Specialists
- Urology
- Oral Surgery

The following personnel are in-house and on duty 24/7, 365 days a year:

- Emergency Room Physicians and Emergency Room Staff
 - Trauma Surgeons
 - Neurosurgeons
 - Anesthesiologists
 - Critical Care Physicians
 - ICU staff
 - Radiologists and Radiology Staff
 - Respiratory Therapists
 - Pharmacy Staff
 - Surgical Teams
 - PACU Nurses
 - Laboratory and Blood Bank staff
 - OB/GYN services
 - Hospitalists
- Other services are on-call and immediately available 24/7, 365 days a year.

Trauma / Acute Care Surgeons provide highly-specialized trauma care to patients with many types of injuries. During calendar year 2023, Forrest General's Level II Trauma Center provided trauma care to **1,724 INJURED PATIENTS**. The top five mechanisms of injury include:

- * **MOTOR VEHICLE CRASH, 589;**
- * **FALLS, 563;**
- * **PENETRATING TRAUMA (INCLUDING INTENTIONAL AND UNINTENTIONAL INJURIES), 134;**
- * **MOTORCYCLE CRASH, 101;**
- * **ASSAULT, 93.**

Neurosurgeons diagnose and treat conditions that affect the patient's nervous system, including the brain, spinal cord, and nerves. They provide both surgical and nonsurgical treatments. In addition to trauma care, our neurosurgeons provide elective services at the Forrest Health Institute for Neuroscience.

The addition of the Orthopaedic Trauma program at Forrest General Hospital allows for patients with complex pelvic trauma to receive local, surgical fracture fixation by highly-skilled orthopaedic surgeons. The Ortho-Trauma Program at Forrest General Hospital performed 635 surgeries in 2023.

The Trauma / Acute Care Surgery Clinic, which is located on the second floor of the hospital, is a newly-renovated, 10-room specialty clinic which allows for hospital-employed General / Trauma Surgeons, Orthopaedic Surgeons, and Neurosurgeons to provide follow-up care to injured patients.

CANCER SERVICES (ONCOLOGY)

Forrest General Hospital's Cancer Center received accreditation under the **American College of Surgeons (ACS) Commission on Cancer (CoC) Accreditation Program**. The ACS CoC is a consortium of professional organizations dedicated to improving survival and quality of life for patients with cancer by setting and raising standards.

The Commission on Cancer (CoC), a quality program of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) has granted Three-Year Accreditation to the cancer program at the Forrest General Cancer Center. Forrest General's Cancer Center is one of nine accredited cancer centers and facilities in Mississippi.

FORREST GENERAL HOSPITAL INTRODUCES NEW MONARCH ROBOT TO DIAGNOSE LUNG CANCER PATIENTS AT EARLIER STAGE.

There were 1,717 new cases entered into the Cancer Registry during 2022. The top sites were Lung 294; Prostate 341; Breast 289; Colorectal 150; Lymphatic/Hematopoietic 119; Head and Neck 52.

The Cancer Registry, Research and Informatics is the cornerstone of the cancer program at Forrest General Hospital. The Research focus is to exceed the expectations of the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer standards and fulfill the Cancer Committee's vision. From our reference year of 2002, our goal is to guarantee accurate and timely collection of diagnosed and/or treated cancer patient data, which allows for the efficacy in evaluation of patient outcomes and identification of opportunities for improvement. Since 1968, there have been **51,767 CASES** entered into the database. Since our reference year of 2002, we have **27,994 CASES**. Lifetime follow-up of patients included in the database supports clinical follow-up and surveillance of additional primaries. Currently, the cancer registry maintains follow-up on **7,948 CASES** with a follow-up rate is 99%.

For the second year, Forrest General Cancer Center employees hosted the Fuel to Fight 5K. This event raises needed funds to be able to provide transportation assistance for patients traveling back and forth to receive treatment at the Center. This year's race, which included more than 200 participants, raised **\$23,250**.





MEDICINE SERVICES

Forrest Health's medicine services includes several specialties, the largest being the Hospital Care and Intensive Care programs. These services, and the highly-qualified staff and physicians who provide this care, are dedicated to helping primary care physicians and their patients during stays in our hospitals and are committed to improving Critical Care services to Forrest Health's patients.

The Intensive Care Unit is a multipurpose unit designed for the intensive treatment of critical needs patients. Intensivists are board-certified specialists who are additionally trained and board certified in the subspecialty of Critical Care Medicine. **This training makes them more familiar with complications associated with critically-ill patients**, providing more accurate and thorough care for each patient, and ultimately resulting in better patient outcomes.

Medical specialties include: Cardiology, Cardiovascular Surgery, Critical Care Medicine, Family Medicine, Gastroenterology, General Surgery, Infectious Disease, Internal Medicine, Nephrology, Neurology, Neurosurgery, Pulmonology, Trauma Surgery, Urology, and Vascular Surgery.

Hospital Care Services features the expertise of internal medicine physicians - **known as hospitalists** - who care for most non-specialist inpatients, as well as the majority of "short-stay observation" patients.

The Forrest General ICU implemented a 24-hour open visitation policy, with the exception of quiet-time hours, which are 7 a.m.-9 a.m. and 7 p.m.-9 p.m. With the new visitation policy, two guests are allowed to visit an ICU patient at the same time, and one person is allowed to stay overnight.

HEART & VASCULAR

Heart and Vascular care and treatment through Forrest Health is available at Forrest General Hospital, The Heart Care Center in Laurel, and four cardiology outreach clinic locations throughout the Pine Belt. The medical professionals in these facilities combine the latest technology with the experience and compassion of the heart and vascular specialists to give our patients' hearts the care they need.



During 2023, Forrest General Hospital cardiologists performed the **500TH WATCHMAN™** procedure for patients with non-valvular atrial fibrillation (AF). This procedure offers an alternative to long-term blood thinners. Cardiologists at Forrest General Hospital began performing WATCHMAN™ procedures in October 2017. In 2020, the hospital became the first in the state since FDA approval to provide an updated, more user-friendly device known as the WATCHMAN FLX™.

For more than **60 YEARS**, Forrest Health has cared for hearts and blood vessels across Hattiesburg, the Pine Belt, and South Mississippi. From diagnosis to treatment, and through rehabilitation, our Heart & Vascular services team is committed to helping patients return to their lifestyle.

For more than 60 years, Forrest Health has cared for hearts and blood vessels across Hattiesburg, the Pine Belt, and South Mississippi. From diagnosis to treatment, and through rehabilitation, **OUR HEART & VASCULAR SERVICES TEAM IS COMMITTED TO HELPING YOU RETURN TO YOUR LIFESTYLE.**

- Aortic valve surgery
- Aortic aneurysm repair or removal
- Coronary bypass surgery
- Mitral valve surgery
- Transcatheter aortic valve replacement



Forrest General provides interventional and surgical treatment options for a variety of structural and valvular heart disease including:

TAVR (Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement)

LAAO or Watchman™ Procedure (Left Atrial Appendage Occlusion)

Mitraclip/TMVR (Transcatheter Mitral Valve Repair)



SURGICAL SERVICES

In 2023, Forrest General Hospital's Ortho-Trauma Program was fully active, showcasing our dedication to delivering high-quality patient care, including the performance of 598 ortho-trauma surgeries and 4,208 regular ortho surgeries.

During 2023, the opening of the Forrest Health Institute of Neuroscience, with locations in West Hattiesburg and Midtown, gives our expert team of neurosurgeons the opportunity to locally care for patients with complex spinal disorders, nervous system disorders, which include the brain, spinal cord, and peripheral nervous systems. FHIN offers advanced technologies, including state-of-the-art cranial and spinal navigation, and treatments for brain tumors and spinal disorders.

Forrest General was accredited as a Bariatric Comprehensive Center during 2023. The Center's surgeons perform laparoscopic and robotic gastric sleeve and gastric bypass surgeries. The Center's multidisciplinary approach combines the expertise of Forrest General surgeons with other healthcare professionals to provide comprehensive care.



Accredited Metabolic and Bariatric Center

ORTHOPEDICS

As the region's only stand-alone orthopedic surgical hospital, we strive to exceed all expectations and redefine premier care in the orthopedic and sports medicine arena.

The Orthopedic Institute combines the **latest technology with expert, caring physicians and staff** to offer services that match the highest levels of orthopedic surgical care delivered across the country.

Unique features include spacious rooms with wider doorways, beds and chairs designed for orthopedic patients, more space for family and belongings, convenient parking, windows for natural light, and elegant decorative touches that **make it feel more like home**.

When you're a patient at The Orthopedic Institute, **you'll experience the convenience of having everything in one place**. The facility features dedicated orthopedic operating rooms with advanced technological equipment, pre-operative and recovery rooms, as well as support services including physical therapy, laboratory, diagnostic imaging services and dietary.



In 2023, the Orthopedic Institute performed **3,226 surgeries** with **507** of those being **MAKO robotic joint replacements**. Since opening in 2012, physicians have performed **31,131** procedures using our state-of-the-art facilities.





WOMEN & CHILDREN'S

Since 1952, Forrest General's Women & Children's Services has been delivering superior care in an extensive range of services with personal attention and highly-skilled physicians and nurses. This is why South Mississippi families have trusted their health and future to Forrest Health for more than half a century. No matter your age, no matter your needs, we offer services designed especially for you.

In 2023, Forrest General Hospital celebrated more than 1,700 telaGen birth-tissue donations since it joined the program in 2019. Forrest General Hospital's Labor and Delivery Department partners with telaGen and gives expectant C-section mothers the opportunity to donate their birth tissue. These tissues can be used to help patients who suffer from ailments such as corneal disease, diabetic foot ulcers, severe burns, non-healing wounds, and many others where tissue grafts are useful or necessary.

Forrest General became the first hospital in Mississippi in 2016 to achieve Baby-Friendly designation, which recognizes hospitals that offer the highest level of care for infant feeding and mother/baby bonding. In 2021, Forrest General achieved the highly prestigious international Baby-Friendly designation once again following a rigorous review.



In 2023, Forrest General Family Birthplace staff **delivered 2,551 babies**. There were 338 NICU admits.



Each NICU bed is equipped with a webcam so parents can stay connected with their newborns. The secure service is free to NICU families.

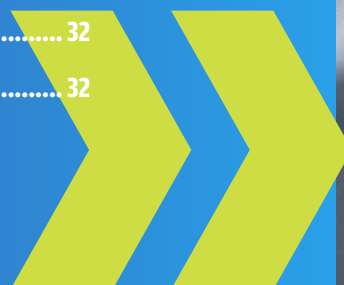


Forrest General Hospital was one of eight health systems awarded **Advance Life Support for OB Emergencies (ALSO)** training. The training promotes safety and quality maternal outcomes for patients in Forrest General's Family Birthplace.

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

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SKILLED NURSING UNIT

Forrest General Hospital's Skilled Nursing Unit (SNU) is a 30-bed unit, which provides benefits of a post-acute medical setting where patients can go after a hospital stay. The unit offers rehabilitative services such as physical, occupational, speech, respiratory therapies, medical management, and other medical services. These services provide recovery benefits to a resident before they return back to a home setting.

The unit was recognized in 2023 for being among the elite SNU facilities which earned a "High Performing" rating, the highest possible achievement. Only 19% of 15,000-plus skilled nursing facilities rated by U.S. News meet that standard.

The Forrest General Hospital Skilled Nursing Unit, located on the third floor of the hospital, has also maintained a 5-star quality rating by CMS, Nursing Home Compare, for health inspections, staffing, and quality measures.

The U.S. News rating evaluates a nursing home's quality of post-acute care for patients recovering from a hospital stay such as after stroke, heart attack, infection, or accidental injury. The unit was evaluated on the following:

- Residents able to return home after being discharged
- Falls resulting in a major injury such as a bone fracture or dislocation
- Infections resulting in hospitalization
- Rehospitalizations during their stay
- Emergency Room visits
- Nurse staffing
- Physical Therapist staffing
- Direct care by registered nurses
- Use of antipsychotic drugs
- Rate of substantiated complaints

All of these are indicators of quality care and attention to resident safety. The rating percentages for FGH's SNU outranked those of both state and national rankings.

Forrest Health offers Skilled Nursing Units in each of its hospitals. The healthcare system's quality care now reaches even more individuals in the hospital's service area.

HOME CARE

For almost 40 years, Forrest General Home Care has been providing valuable home care services to 19 counties in the Pine Belt and beyond. Services including Nursing for Chronic Disease Management, Wound Care Nursing Services, Infusion Nursing Services, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, Medical Social Services, Telehealth, and Personal Care Services.

In addition to the main Home Care office in Hattiesburg, there are also branch offices in Lumberton, Prentiss, Tylertown, Columbia, Picayune, Laurel, and Richton.

During 2023, Home Care admitted 5,592 patients and completed 92,815 visits.



HOSPICE

Hospice is a special way of caring for the terminally ill and their caregivers. Focusing on the whole person and not the disease, Hospice strives to take care of the patient's physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs, as well as the needs of the family. Hospice takes a team approach with each member of the team offering a specific set of skills. We are so lucky to also offer the Asbury Hospice House to our patients and community members, a home away from home.

Celebrating seven years, the Asbury Hospice House has provided care for more than 3,100 patients and families during their time of need. The memories shared by patients' families are what make the Asbury Hospice House a home.





RADIOLOGY/ IMAGING

Offering a full spectrum of radiological services, both diagnostic and treatment procedures, Forrest General uses some of the most advanced technology available. Licensed technologists, RNs, and radiologists are committed to exceptional patient care while working to provide efficient, convenient, and accurate diagnosis. The radiology team is essential for patient care at Forrest General.

An Interventional Radiology Suite is a new addition to Forrest General's Radiology Department. The IR suite offers procedures such as neurological, cancer treatment, OB/GYN, and urology. The facility also supports the needs of Forrest General's Level II Trauma Center. As part of the new services offered, the Interventional Radiologists see outpatient consults by referral. Services also include pre-procedure and follow-up visits.



STROKE CARE

Forrest General is home to several neuro hospitalists who work with patients and are available in-house to attend stroke codes and consult on neurology patients. Forrest General's Neurology services includes a designated stroke unit, which has been certified by the DNV accreditation agency as an Advanced Primary Stroke Care Center.

Neurohospitalist, Keith Jones, MD, also serves as medical director of the Stroke Care Center. He has spoken with students at Hattiesburg High School, ADP's Leadership Pine Belt class, and visited neighborhoods to spread the word regarding the signs and symptoms of stroke.



REHABILITATION SERVICES

Specialized Rehabilitation teams offer a wide variety of personalized therapy and care. Rehabilitation Service teams consist of Physical and Occupational Therapists as well as Speech Language Pathologists who work in Acute Care, Skilled Nursing Unit, Inpatient Rehabilitation Center (F.G.R.C.), Home Care, and Outpatient (Adult and Pediatric Clinics). Specialized services offered include Certified Stroke therapies, Certified Outpatient Pediatric therapy, Balance and Vestibular therapy, and Rehab Barium Swallow studies for both adults and children.

The Inpatient Rehabilitation Center is one of a few rehab facilities equipped with the ZeroG® Gait and Balance System, which protects patients from a fall while providing dynamic body weight support as patients practice walking, balancing, sit-to-stand maneuvers, and even stairs.



WOUND HEALING CENTER

The Forrest Health Wound Healing Center specializes in the treatment and management of chronic, complex wounds that have been present for at least 30 days, such as diabetic foot or leg ulcers, lower leg ulcers due to poor circulation, chronic soft tissue and bone infections, pressure wounds, and conditions that could lead to amputation if not aggressively treated and properly managed.

For certain medical conditions, The Wound Center also utilizes hyperbaric oxygen therapy. This is a medical treatment that increases the amount of oxygen in the patient's blood, allowing oxygen to pass more easily through the plasma into the wounds to heal them.

STROKE EDUCATION



May is designated as Stroke Awareness Month and Dr. Keith Jones, a neurohospitalist, and medical director of the Stroke Care Center at Forrest General Hospital, visited with members of Hattiesburg High School's Health Science program.



Dr. Jones' "Stroke Smart Mississippi: Stroke Smart Basics" educated students on

what a stroke is, the results of a stroke, how one's body can be affected, and other beneficial information which was followed by a quiz for students.

Later in the month, Dr. Jones took his message to the streets of Hattiesburg as he visited a South Hattiesburg neighborhood. Dr. Jones, along with

his team, and trusty sidekick and Forrest General therapy dog, Finn, made his way door-to-door helping educate community members about the signs and signals of a stroke. He ensured that everyone knew about the BE FAST acronym which helps one determine if someone has had a stroke or is experiencing the signs and symptoms of a stroke and the steps you should take.

Dr. Jones also spoke with one of the Leadership Pine Belt Classes, which is organized by the Area Development Partnership.

This was an incredible opportunity for aspiring leaders in the community to gather and foster connections while learning about the vital role healthcare plays in the Pine Belt region. A handout included Stroke-related questions with multiple choice answers, and a Q&A with Dr. Jones provided valuable insight for these up-and-coming leaders.

BECKY & BILL OLIVER HEALING G





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MISSION STATEMENT

To recruit, train, and retain academically excellent family physicians who can provide comprehensive and compassionate primary care to the diverse community we serve.

RESIDENCY LIFE

Forrest General Hospital Family Medicine Residency opened its doors in 2014 as an unopposed program built on the mission of inspiring world-class care. A resident doctor is a medical school graduate and doctor in training who is taking part in a graduate medical education (GME) program in the specialty

of his/her choice. All residency programs fall under the Graduate Medical Education department. In order to become a Board Certified Physician, you must complete residency.

Our residents have direct guidance in how we shape our residency, our only criterion being constant improvement. Our goal is to produce the best possible physicians.



Our Family Medicine Residency Program (FMRP) is accredited by (ACGME) Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education.

Thirty-nine residents have successfully graduated the program to date, with the majority of graduates staying in MS to practice medicine. To date, the Forrest General Hospital Family Medicine Residency Program maintains a 100% ABFM (American Board of Family Medicine) board passage rate. The program takes six residents per academic year, which runs July 1 through June 30, for a total compliment of 18 residents. The program is three years in length.

The Forrest General Hospital (FGH) Family Medicine Residency Clinic (FMRC) is an unparalleled ambulatory clinic for residents. In addition to their family medicine continuity clinics, our residents provide acute care and occupational medicine services for all employees of Forrest General Hospital. We also run the pre-operative clinic for all pre-planned FGH surgery patients.

The patient experience is also exceptional at the FGH FMRC. We embrace the medical team model and have a clinical pharmacist, a social worker, advanced practice providers, and wellness nurses as members of our care team. Residents are members of the joint FGH/Hattiesburg Clinic Accountable Care Organization (ACO). This not only provides education in Population Health but also a direct opportunity to practice 21st Century family medicine with direct economic consequences. Lastly, our residency faculty run clinical research. This provides access to cutting-edge treatments for FMRC patients and a rare educational opportunity for our FGH residents.



The FMRC is located on the first floor of the Hattiesburg Clinic, PA, conveniently located directly across the street from FGH. The Hattiesburg Clinic is our partner physician group. Most of our specialty rotations are with Hattiesburg Clinic physicians and often in the same building as the FMRC. In addition to well-equipped examination rooms, the FMRC has a large procedure room, resident work areas, a centralized checkout room, and a conference room. Most importantly, we are fully integrated

electronically with our Epic medical record system, in the FMRC, the hospital, and Hattiesburg Clinic.

Excellent resident education and quality patient care are our priorities. We provide strong procedural education and integrate practice management such as documentation, coding, and billing into the clinical experience. The resident experience at Forrest General is comprehensive, preparing our graduates to practice in any setting.

Overseeing the program are a program director, assistant program director, seven core faculty, including the PD and APD, one program manager and one program coordinator.

Each resident is assigned a core faculty mentor upon entering the program in addition to an upper level resident; these mentors will meet periodically with them to provide evaluation feedback and encouragement

Assigned a block schedule at the beginning of the academic year, each residents' schedule is broken into 12 blocks which provide experience in:

- Adult inpatient
- Pediatric inpatient
- General surgery
- Sports medicine
- Orthopedics
- Rheumatology
- OBGYN
- Emergency medicine
- ICU
- Palliative care
- G.I.
- Geriatrics
- E.N.T.
- Cardiology
- Nephrology
- Ambulatory pediatrics
- Dermatology
- FMC (Family Medicine Continuity Clinic)

Each resident has six elective blocks to pursue training in specialties of interest. Residents also participate in community-service opportunities during their training by providing health care services to the underprivileged community at Edwards Street Fellowship and Southeast Mississippi Rural Health Initiative Clinics (SEMRHI).

“I’ve fallen in love with the Ambassador program... This is really helping me get exposure to different things around the hospital.”

– Sarah Mitchell



AMBASSADORS

It’s not just on St. Patrick’s Day that you’ll find the wearing of the green at Forrest General Hospital, but every day. Guests at hospital entrances are greeted on a regular basis by college-age students wearing green blazers who might be considered the hospital’s pot of gold – the Forrest General Ambassadors.

Ambassadors, who are 18 years of age or older, have the opportunity to earn community service hours in their various roles at the hospital – whether helping visitors find a patient’s room, delivering flowers and mail, answering questions, or most importantly, being a friendly face to greet those who enter the doors at Forrest General. During holidays, visitors may find the Ambassadors making their way to the different departments and units around the hospital or in the hallways handing out goodies or sharing a kind word in an attempt to put a smile on the faces of visitors and employees alike.

“The Ambassador Services program helps students interact with the community, practice their customer service skills and also gain experience in the hospital setting,” said Vicky Buxton, Volunteer & Guest Services director. “It’s important and makes a strong impact on students to boost the patient experience by enhancing the We CARE values we have at Forrest General.”

Ambassador Services has become an essential part of Forrest General Hospital and is comprised of several areas, including Leadership, Patient Care Rounding, ER Care Partners, Information Desks, Customer Care Experience, and Departmental Support. “Students rotate through each of these programs which provide them with direct contact and interaction with patients, visitors, families, and staff,” said Buxton.

In some instances, these young people, after having served and seen the inner workings of the hospital, have chosen to pursue an education path that might one day lead them to a career in the healthcare field.

Sarah Mitchell and Camryn Harris are both pre-med students studying at the University of Southern Mississippi. They are also both from Brandon but attended different high schools.

“I’ve fallen in love with the Ambassador program,” said Mitchell, who wants to go into Radiology. “This is really helping me get exposure to different things around the hospital,” she said.



For Harris, finding a volunteer program amid the COVID-19 pandemic, was difficult, but Forrest General’s Ambassador program provided her that opportunity. While being of service to others, Harris also wanted to obtain more experience in the medical field as well as getting the feel for being in a hospital setting. She hopes to pursue a career in psychiatry.

Harris said an important part of the job is being a friendly face for everyone in the hospital, but also to provide support for patients who don’t have family or friends who can visit. The two Ambassadors had returned from taking a gift to Labor and Delivery where they found a room with just a mother and her newborn. “It was heartwarming to be a part of that experience,” Harris said.

Mitchell recently had an experience when she was pushing the Ambassador’s Hospitality cart around the hospital. The cart is filled with activity books, hygiene items, socks, toys, and other items. “I went into a room to offer them something off the cart, which is free, and the family members were so excited,” she said. “They asked about making a donation, because they thought this was something really great the hospital was doing. Having not seen this at any other medical facility, they felt this made Forrest General really unique – providing items for their patients and caring enough about them and their experience while a patient.”

Mitchell said while getting exposure to different fields of work, it provides a very good opportunity for networking with the hospital as well as job shadowing.

Students in Forrest General’s Ambassador program are selected through an application and interview process. “This program, which has limited acceptance, provides students pursuit of medical and healthcare careers and an opportunity to serve their medical community with important, non-clinical responsibilities,” said Millie Swan, Forrest Health vice president. “Not only does the program allow students to gain community service hours, it places them in a position for clinical and patient exposure, and provides them with an avenue by which knowledge of the medical culture can be learned and skill sets sharpened.”

Students who are interested in participating in an Ambassador position go through an interview process and must meet the following requirements:

- Must be at least 18 to serve in this program.
- Ability to communicate clearly.
- Be energetic, friendly, and outgoing.
- Must have an ease with starting conversations.
- Complete orientation and commit to minimum of volunteer hours required per session, 12 hours.
- Must be enrolled in college or university.

For more information about becoming an Ambassador, visit www.Forresthealth.org/ambassadors.





SPIRIT GIRLS

The Spirit Girls, a program which is part of Forrest Health's Spirit of Women, welcomes young ladies each spring to the opportunities and fun offered by this program.

Spirit Girls is designed to reach young women through events targeted at promoting self-esteem and encouraging healthy lifestyles.

Spirit Girls participate in a wide range of activities and community service projects for organizations such as Hattiesburg Zoo, Hattiesburg Half, Dog Days 5K, and the Miss Hospitality program. Spirit Girls also participate in Spirit of Women events.



The young ladies selected are in grades 7 through 12 and reside in Forrest Health's 19-county service area which includes the following counties: Covington, Forrest, George, Greene, Hancock, Jasper, Jefferson Davis, Jones, Lamar, Lawrence, Marion, Pearl River, Perry, Pike, Simpson, Smith, Stone, Wayne and Walthall.

Spirit Girls attend quarterly meetings that focus on community service or educational topics. The hours of community service contributed through various events provide a chance to make lasting contributions to their community as well as lasting friendships.

"The goal of our Spirit of Women program is to empower women with information so they can make healthy choices for themselves and their families," said Millie Swan, Forrest Health vice president. "We feel it is important for young ladies to develop healthy habits and start making good decisions early in their lives. The Spirit Girls program gives young ladies the opportunity to give back to the community, participate in fun events and at the same time, focus on education and important

issues, which we hope helps them to mature into healthy and informed young women.”

During the school year, the Spirit Girls also host and assist with events to help them develop a broader perspective and lifelong social skills while contributing to the community.



“I am thrilled for the upcoming year of Spirit Girls and am looking forward to the volunteer events that we have planned,” said Spirit Girls Coordinator, Macy Knight. “We have an awesome group of girls who I know will do amazing things this year. I have spoken to many of the girls since interviews, and they cannot wait to begin serving and making an impact in their community!”

Follow Spirit Girls on Facebook or Instagram.

SPIRIT OF WOMEN

With more than 8,000 members, Forrest Health is the exclusive Spirit of Women hospital for Mississippi. Since 2004, Forrest General’s Spirit of Women program has been a valued resource for women of all ages in the community.

Membership benefits include special discounts at Spirit of Women programs and more than 100 local retail businesses and a monthly calendar of events. A small fee of \$20 provides you with a lifetime membership.

Each year programs are customized to meet the needs of today’s women and their families, providing health education events and health screenings in a fun and entertaining way – it’s what we call “health-u-tainment.” Great speakers provide the entertainment on topics ranging from gardening to home decorating, while experts from Forrest Health relay important health information covering all stages of a woman’s life.



FORREST GENERAL HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION

The Forrest General Healthcare Foundation is the philanthropic division of Forrest Health. Our Foundation helps ensure the hospital's vision of CARE becomes a reality for the 19-county region the hospital serves.

The mission of the Foundation is to cultivate and inspire meaningful, lasting relationships, and investments that enrich the healthcare experience in our community.

Because of generous donations, the Foundation is able to continue its support of Asbury Hospice House, Becky and Bill Oliver Healing Garden at the Cancer Center, NICU, Forrest General Cancer Center, and overall patient experience, combined with smaller projects identified by the hospital.

The current campaign is raising funds to expand Asbury Hospice House, supporting the need for extra space. The Foundation raises money through yearly donations from the community, as well as several annual events.



VOLUNTEER SERVICES PROGRAM

Volunteers are central to Forrest Health's mission to "Do What is Best for the Patient." Every volunteer has a unique voice, perspective, and gift to share.

Volunteer Services is comprised of uniquely designed programs for the Forrest General Cancer Center, Pine Grove Next Step, Pastoral Care, Cancer Registry, Cancer Center Music Program, Pet Therapy Program, and William Carey University Music Therapy Services.

Those who seek to volunteer at Forrest General are caring, dedicated, and committed individuals who simply want to give back to their community in the best way they know how... through the giving of their time.

During 2023, 30 volunteers donated 5,000 hours to help make patients, families, employees, and visitors, feel cared for. Our volunteers collectively represented more than 138 years of service to Forrest General Hospital and the communities it serves.

According to the Independent Sector, the current estimated value of each volunteer hour for Mississippi is \$23.90, equating to a dollar value of \$119,500. This translates into 57 worked FTE's for our organization across all the volunteer programs.

Program benefits include meal vouchers while on duty, yearly flu vaccines, invitations to hospital-sponsored events, including our annual Christmas party, and vouchers for a free turkey or ham as part of our yearly celebrations.



PURVIS MAN FINDS COMFORT IN VOLUNTEER WORK AT FORREST GENERAL CANCER CENTER

These days, you will find Joey Hagenson of Purvis donating his time as a volunteer at the Forrest General Cancer Center, welcoming patients and their family members at the front doors, or assisting patients back to see their doctor. No matter what he's doing, it's all in the name of love.

Volunteering at the Cancer Center was something he and his late wife, Dina, had talked about doing together when she got better. But for Dina, that day never came. She passed away in May of 2023 after a valiant fight with her own cancer, a glioblastoma, the most common form of brain cancer.

Because things did not work out as they planned, Joey decided he wanted to honor Dina's memory and those at the Cancer Center who had helped them by doing this himself. "Even though she was going through treatment here at the Cancer Center, she still had kindness in her heart to want to give back," said Kecia Jones-Harris, Cancer Center director. "The main thing patients need is a little encouragement. When you have to come to one place 40 times for treatment, it gets dreary. Sometimes a kind word along the way really helps."

In November of 2020, Dina got sick. When she didn't get better in a day or two, they sought medical treatment. After about 30 minutes, a doctor came out and told Joey about the brain tumor, the size of two large fists.

With the radiation she was taking, doctors gave Dina a little more than six months to live. "We rocked along, started fishing again, went to the mountains, wherever she wanted to go, we went," Joey said.



At some point, small hotspots started showing up and a second surgery was scheduled. Approximately 99 percent of the tumor was removed and radiation started again. Dina also wore

an Optune, a device equipped with electrodes worn on the head to help shrink tumors. "It doesn't cure cancer, but helps slow it down, which it did," said Joey. Things would be good for a little while and then more hotspots.

"But she never gave up until the last few days," Joey said.

For Joey, the front doors of the Cancer Center is where it all starts. "When you come every day, you don't know the names, but rather the faces," he said. "It was sad, but comforting, because you knew people who were going through the same thing you were."

"The last two-and-a-half years, I lived here at the Cancer Center. This is a very special place. We made connections here and became a big family. Dina loved them all. That's the reason I'm sitting in this chair. I'm going to honor her memory and for the folks who helped and were so good to us. I'm going to follow through with our plan to volunteer."



REGIONAL FACILITIES

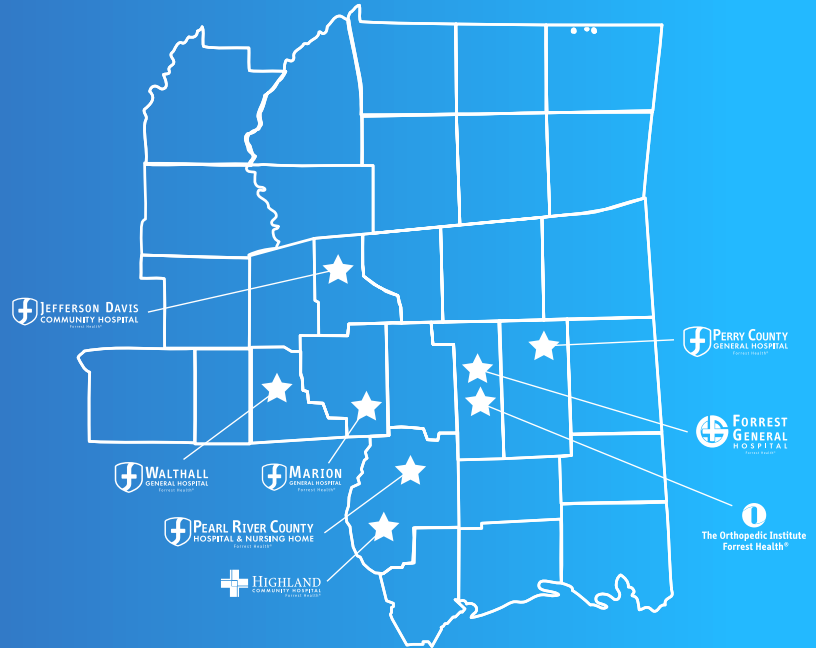


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HIGHLAND COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Highland Community Hospital, located in Picayune, is a 49-bed acute care hospital providing a number of services for the healthcare needs of South Mississippi residents.

Recognizing the threat of heart disease for the people of Pearl River and Hancock counties, Highland has made an investment to combat this serious disease involving a variety of health care professionals. The Cardiopulmonary Department features state-of-the-art technology and offers Cardiology and Diagnostic Services.

The hospital's Emergency Department serves as a main gateway. HCH's professional health care team provides efficient and effective care for every type of illness, injury, and trauma. If the need arises, patients may be transferred to Forrest General's Emergency Department or Trauma Center for complex specialized care in an organized and timely manner.

As a dedicated staff of emergency physicians, nurses, and allied health care professionals, Highland's medical team is trained and ready to respond to meet the unique needs of each patient.

HCH's Intensive Care Unit is a multipurpose unit designed and equipped for the intensive treatment of critically-ill patients. Up-to-date technology, skilled care providers

and an interdisciplinary approach to promoting positive patient outcomes, provide for total and complete patient care.

Lab services are provided 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Respiratory therapists are also available 24/7 to provide emergency and continuing care.

For therapy needs, Highland's physical therapists perform comprehensive assessments and work with the patient's primary care providers to design and provide a treatment plan targeted to their specific needs. A patient's progress is evaluated and the treatment plan is adjusted as needed to assure maximum recovery.

Highland Community Hospital's respiratory therapists are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to provide emergency and continuing care.

Highland is equipped to provide the community with an accredited magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) service. Highland's fully-equipped service combines a comfortable environment and convenience with state-of-the-art digital technology. A full line of imaging services is also available - from X-rays to ultrasound, nuclear medicine, mammography, and digital CAT scan.

MARION GENERAL HOSPITAL

ASAA Level IV Emergency Department and Trauma Center, Marion General Hospital in Columbia offers emergency health services 24 hours a day to patients of all ages. The department is responsible for the immediate treatment of any medical or surgical emergency, initiating life-saving measures, including chronic medical problems, minor injuries, and illnesses. The ED includes 10 rooms and is staffed 24 hours a day by qualified physicians, nurse practitioners, and nursing staff. Emergency and trauma cases needing a higher level of emergency care are transferred to Forrest General Hospital.

The Medical Unit has 32-beds which provide care for a wide range of medical conditions, as well as monitored telemetry. Also, outpatient IV antibiotics, IV fluids, blood transfusions, and other medications can be administered in this unit.

The Intensive Care Unit includes six beds composed of medical patients ages 16 and up. The patient's medical conditions require the need for extensive care due to a critical illness. A waiting area outside ICU is available for family or visitor of ICU patients.

Imaging and Radiology services are provided as are inpatient and outpatient X-ray, ultrasound, CAT scan, DEXA scans, nuclear medicine, and MRI.

DEXA scans check bone strength by measuring a small part of one bone or a few bones. Results from this exam help in the diagnosis and treatment of osteoporosis – osteopenia, bone loss, and fractures.

A patient's primary care physician or OBGYN may submit an order for a DEXA scan. Be sure to check with your insurance company to see if the DEXA scan is covered, then contact your primary care physician to discuss the DEXA scan and whether it is right for you.

Inpatient and outpatient physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy are provided.



Respiratory Therapy is also provided for inpatient and outpatient EEGs, EKGs, PFT screening, stress tests, arterial blood gas studies, and breathing treatments.

The Rural Health Clinic services provided include care for acute illness, along with routine health care maintenance, minor surgical procedures, administrative health care examinations, diagnostic and therapeutic services, and supplies and other services provided consisting of primary medical care.

At the Rural Health Clinic, women's health services includes yearly exams, STI screenings, birth control options, and pregnancy confirmations.

The facility offers Swing Bed Services are available to provide care to those individuals who need extended care beyond their acute care stay for physical therapy, nursing, and other skilled care.

Infusion therapy services are prescribed by a physician when oral medication is ineffective or inappropriate for a particular illness or patient. Outpatient infusion services offered help treat conditions including, but not limited to, dehydration, multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn's disease, anemia, and osteoporosis. Services include the infusion of intravenous antibiotics, iron replacement therapy, hydration therapy, and blood transfusions. Injections such as vaccines and other injectable medications are also provided.

The clinical laboratory offers a wide range of tests and services to meet the needs of the community.



WALTHALL GENERAL HOSPITAL

Located in Tylertown, Walthall General Hospital has been serving the community with a variety of services for more than 50 years. The Emergency Department is classified as a Level IV Emergency Department and Trauma Center. The ED offers emergency health services 24 hours a day and is responsible for the immediate treatment of any medical or surgical emergency, for initiating life-saving measures, including chronic medical problems, minor injuries, and illnesses. The ED includes a total of five beds and is staffed 24 hours a day by qualified physicians and nursing staff. Emergency and trauma cases that need a higher level of emergency care are transferred to Forrest General Hospital. Patients are transferred by ambulance or air ambulance, depending on the condition.

Walthall provides X-ray, ultrasound, CAT scan and outpatient MRI as well as Endoscopy services such as colonoscopy and upper GI.

Inpatient hospitalist care includes IV antibiotics, IV fluids, blood transfusions, and other medication administration.

WGH provides inpatient and outpatient physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy. Respiratory therapy

services include EEGs, EKGs, stress tests, arterial blood gas studies, and breathing treatments.

The hospital's Rural Health Clinic offers services such as a first response to common life-threatening injuries and acute illness, along with routine health care maintenance, minor surgical procedures, administrative health care examinations, diagnostic and therapeutic services and supplies and other services provided consisting of primary medical care.

Swing Bed services are available to provide care to those individuals who need extended care beyond their acute care stay for physical therapy, nursing, and other skilled care.

The hospital's Wound Healing Center specializes in the treatment and management of complex problem wounds.

WGH's Rural Health Clinic offers medical emergency procedures as a first response to common life-threatening injuries and acute illness, along with routine healthcare maintenance, minor surgical procedures, administrative healthcare exams, diagnostic and therapeutic services, and other primary care treatment.

PEARL RIVER COUNTY HOSPITAL & NURSING HOME

The Pearl River County Hospital and Nursing Home offers a variety of services to meet you and your family's needs. The critical care access facility providing advanced care and life-saving intervention for the residents of Pearl River County and surrounding areas. Additionally, they offer swing bed rehabilitation and a variety of outpatient services.

Outpatient services include:

- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech Therapy
- Wound Care
- Radiology Services
- Lab Services
- Infusion Therapy
- Acute Hospital Admission

When emergencies arise, the hospital is equipped with 24/7 fully-staffed emergency medicine providers, and an advanced life support team certified in medical and traumatic emergencies.

Inpatient and observation admission includes:

- Hospitalist Provider Care
- IV Fluids/Antibiotics
- Blood Transfusions
- Medication Administration

The Pearl River Family Clinic offers a variety of services to meet your family's needs.

- Medical treatment for all ages (acute & chronic)
- Wellness
- Mental health
- Physicals (employment, sports and schools, Department of Transportation)
- Vaccinations





JEFFERSON DAVIS COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Jefferson Davis Community Hospital, located in Prentiss, is home to 25 acute/swing beds, while its Extended Care Nursing Home Facility houses 55 nursing home beds. The five-star rated extended care facility is located on the hospital campus and is dual certified for Medicare and Medicaid, as well as private pay.

The hospital's Emergency Department is classified as a Level IV Emergency Department and Trauma Center. The ER offers emergency health services 24 hours a day to patients of all ages. The department is responsible for the immediate treatment of any medical or surgical emergency, for initiating life-saving measures, including chronic medical problems, minor injuries, and illnesses. The ER is staffed 24 hours a day by qualified physicians and nursing staff. Emergency and trauma cases that need a higher level of care are transferred to Forrest General Hospital. Patients are transferred by ambulance or air ambulance, depending on the condition.

The hospital provides inpatient and outpatient X-ray, ultrasound, CT scan, PACS system, Echos, and MRI.

The hospital offers Infusion therapy, prescribed by a physician, when oral medication is ineffective or inappropriate for a particular illness or patient. Outpatient Infusion services are provided to treat conditions including, but not limited to, dehydration, multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn's disease, anemia, and osteoporosis. Services include the infusion of intravenous antibiotics, iron replacement therapy, hydration therapy, and blood transfusions. Injections such as vaccines and other injectable medications are also provided.

A clinical laboratory offers a wide range of tests and services to meet the needs of the community.

The Medical Unit provides care for a wide range of medical conditions, as well as monitored telemetry. Nursing care is provided for ages 16 and up. Also, outpatient IV antibiotics, IV fluids, blood transfusions, and other medications can be administered in this unit.

The hospital provides inpatient and outpatient physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy. An innovative treatment for chronic pain, called dry needling, is also available.

Swing Bed services are available to provide care to those individuals who need extended care beyond their acute care stay for physical therapy, nursing, and other skilled care.

The Rural Health Clinic's services include medical emergency procedures such as a first response to common life-threatening injuries and acute illness, along with routine health care maintenance, minor surgical procedures, administrative health care examinations, diagnostic and therapeutic services and supplies and other services provided consisting of primary medical care.

The Arrington Wellness Center is a physical fitness center open six days a week with exercise equipment, classes and more.

PERRY COUNTY HOSPITAL AND DOCTORS CLINIC

Perry County Hospital's Emergency Department is a Level IV Stroke-Designated Hospital offering health services 24 hours a day to patients of all ages. The department is responsible for immediate treatment of any medical or surgical emergency, for initiating life-saving measures, including chronic medical problems, minor injuries, and illnesses. The ED includes a total of six rooms and is staffed 24 hours a day by qualified physicians, nurse practitioners, and nursing staff. Emergency and trauma cases that need a higher level of emergency care are transferred to Forrest General Hospital. Patients are transferred by ambulance or air ambulance, depending on the condition.

Infusion therapy is also offered at the facility. It is prescribed by a physician when oral medication is ineffective or inappropriate for a particular illness or patient. Medical staff provides outpatient infusion services to treat conditions including, but not limited to, dehydration, multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn's disease, anemia, and osteoporosis. Services include the infusion of intravenous antibiotics, iron replacement therapy, hydration therapy, and blood transfusions. Injections such as vaccines and other injectable medications are also provided.

A Clinical laboratory offers a wide range of tests and services to meet the needs of the community.

Outpatient Rehabilitation Services offered include physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, and dry needling, as are X-rays, ultrasound, CAT scans, and nuclear medicine.

The Doctors Clinic includes family medicine, wellness visits, acute illness, and chronic disease management.



2023 FINANCIALS



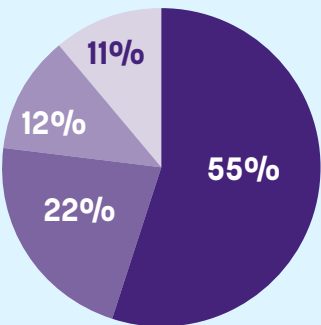
FORREST HEALTH COMBINED STATISTICS

\$92,758,000

Total Community
Service Mission

\$375,293,000

Total Economic Benefit



MEDICARE
COMMERCIAL
MEDICAID
OTHER



**INPATIENT
ADMISSIONS**
28,751



BIRTHS
2,770



ER VISITS
131,335



**OPEN HEART
SURGERIES**
364



**CANCER RADIATION
THERAPIES**
21,740



EMPLOYEES
4,838



INPNT. SURGERIES
5,449



**OTPNT.
SURGERIES**
8,240



**FORREST
GENERAL
HOSPITAL**
Forrest Health®

\$77,035,000

Total Community
Service Mission

\$316,331,000

Total Economic Benefit

FORREST GENERAL HOSPITAL



INPATIENT ADMISSIONS*
26,393



BIRTHS
2,551



ER VISITS
72,029



OPEN HEART SURGERIES
364



CANCER RADIATION THERAPIES
21,740



EMPLOYEES
3,731



INPATIENT SURGERIES*
5,284



OUTPATIENT SURGERIES*
7,497

*Includes The Orthopedic Institute





HIGHLAND COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

\$7,985,000

Total Community
Service Mission

\$23,235,000

Total Economic
Benefit



**INPATIENT
ADMISSIONS**
1,393



BIRTHS
219



ER VISITS
23,706



EMPLOYEES
317



**INPATIENT
SURGERIES**
165



**OUTPATIENT
SURGERIES**
743

MARION GENERAL HOSPITAL



\$2,056,000

Total Community
Service Mission

\$8,670,000

Total Economic Benefit



INPATIENT ADMISSIONS
474



ER VISITS
13,337



EMPLOYEES
139

WALTHALL GENERAL HOSPITAL



\$1,489,000

Total Community
Service Mission

\$5,474,000

Total Economic Benefit



INPATIENT ADMISSIONS
187



ER VISITS
7,624



EMPLOYEES
83



JEFFERSON DAVIS COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

\$1,143,000

Total Community
Service Mission

\$6,227,000

Total Economic Benefit



INPATIENT ADMISSIONS
99



ER VISITS
5,317



EMPLOYEES
175

PERRY COUNTY HOSPITAL



\$1,348,000

Total Community
Service Mission

\$4,173,000

Total Economic Benefit



INPATIENT ADMISSIONS
61



ER VISITS
3,721



EMPLOYEES
46

PEARL RIVER COUNTY HOSPITAL & NURSING HOME



\$1,702,000

Total Community
Service Mission

\$11,183,000

Total Economic Benefit



INPATIENT ADMISSIONS
144



ER VISITS
5,601



EMPLOYEES
347



FORREST GENERAL HOSPITAL



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